there and putting the force on an efficient basis, but left it to the Government to devise such measures as might be calculated to prevent a recurrence of the evil complained of.

*Mr. N. Velayudhaperumal Pillai (Agastisvaram)* also spoke on the subject.

*Mr. K. S. Shanmukham Pillai (Agricultural Improvement Association, South Travancore)* observed that the Desakavalkars of Nanjanad were people originally appointed and even now paid by the ryots for protecting them from the inroads of dacoits from Tinnevelly, but it was a matter of grievance that while they still continued to pay and maintain these functionaries, they were placed by Government not under the control of the people themselves, but of the police. The present arrangement while it was in no way beneficial was a fruitful source of evil to them. The member prayed that the Desakavalkars might be taken back from the control of the police and made independent of them, in which case they would serve the interests of the villagers. He also requested that their appointment might be vested in the taluk Tahsildars.

*Reply.*—A scheme formulated by the Superintendent of Police has been referred to the officers concerned for their opinion and is awaiting replies from them. Government are aware of the difficulties complained of and will consider the matter and pass orders.

**109. Employment of an efficient detective police force and conjoint investigation of grave offences by the Police officer and the Magistrate.**

*Mr. K. Appathura Iyer, B. A., B. L., (Nedumangad)* said that a fair knowledge of criminal law was indispensable for policemen, but it was doubtful whether the station-house officers of this State could all be said to possess any knowledge of this law. Undue importance was attached to confessions which could in no case be voluntary and this very often resulted in miscarriage of justice. The organization of an efficient detective police force would attract a better class of educated men to the police service. It was also desirable to lay down a rule that in cases of serious offences the Police Inspector and the Sub-magistrate should jointly conduct the investigation.

*Mr. Kanakku Mathevan Mathevan (Nedumangad)* also spoke on the subject.

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*Reply.*—In this small State, it seems neither necessary nor desirable to have a separate detective Police. In making appointments or giving promotions, attention is being paid to special detective ability. In regard to the suggestion that in serious offences the Police Officer and the Magistrate should conduct investigation jointly, it may be pointed out that there is a circular to this effect even now.

**110. Reform of the Police.**

*Mr. K. Padmanabhan Tampi* (*Taluk Association, Kalkulam*) remarked that this was a subject brought forward at the last session of the Assembly and noted by the Government for favourable consideration. Extraordinary powers were vested in the hands of ignorant men and all that was now required for a person to get himself enrolled in the ranks of the police force was that he should be 5 ft. 6 in. in height and 32 inches in breadth. Policemen no doubt had to undergo some training but that was merely nominal and confined to the parade ground and the gymnasium. It was these men without any knowledge of criminal law or even of the world that were required to protect the person and property of the people of this State, to preserve order and maintain peace. The station-house officers were no better than the rank and file of the force and nearly 85 per cent of them were promoted from the constables' grade. None of them were able to draw lines of distinction among homicidal, suicidal and accidental deaths or the ways and methods of handling dead bodies or conducting post-mortem examination, not to speak of other matters. The proportion of policemen to area and population was respectively 1 to 9 and 1 to 4,083. The number of cognizable cases showed an increase in the past few years and currency difficulties as well as Marava inroads were matters of frequent occurrence. The inspection of Assistant Superintendents was not all that could be desired and the whole system admitted of considerable improvement in every conceivable direction. The member suggested (1) that educated and well-conducted young men might be attracted to join the ranks of the police by giving an increased pay to them; (2) that the charge of station-house offices might be entrusted to responsible men; (3) that well-educated, well-behaved and respectable men might be appointed as Police Inspectors and promotions to the rank of sub-magistrates ensured to them; (4) that District Magistrates might

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